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PTO/SB/05 (4/98)  
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<b>UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL</b> <small>(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))</small>	Attorney Docket No.	1300-155
	First Inventor or Application Identifier	ELESH, James N.
	Title	INVENTORY CONTROL CARTON WITH TWO ...
	Express Mail Label No.	EL 380 607 149 US

<b>APPLICATION ELEMENTS</b> <small>See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.</small>	<b>ADDRESS TO:</b> Assistant Commissioner for Patents Box Patent Application Washington, DC 20231
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<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> * Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17) (Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)</p> <p>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification [Total Pages <b>12</b>] (preferred arrangement set forth below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Descriptive title of the Invention</li><li>- Cross References to Related Applications</li><li>- Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R &amp; D</li><li>- Reference to Microfiche Appendix</li><li>- Background of the Invention</li><li>- Brief Summary of the Invention</li><li>- Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)</li><li>- Detailed Description</li><li>- Claim(s)</li><li>- Abstract of the Disclosure</li></ul> <p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets <b>2</b>]</p> <p>4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages <b>2</b>]</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Newly executed (original or copy)</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)</p> <p>i. <input type="checkbox"/> <b>DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)</b> Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).</p> <p><b>* NOTE FOR ITEMS 1 &amp; 13: IN ORDER TO BE ENTITLED TO PAY SMALL ENTITY FEES, A SMALL ENTITY STATEMENT IS REQUIRED (37 C.F.R. § 1.27), EXCEPT IF ONE FILED IN A PRIOR APPLICATION IS RELIED UPON (37 C.F.R. § 1.28).</b></p>	<p>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)</p> <p>6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)</p> <p>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Copy</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)</p> <p>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Statement verifying identity of above copies</p> <p><b>ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS</b></p> <p>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (cover sheet &amp; document(s))</p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement of Power of Attorney (when there is an assignee)</p> <p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> English Translation Document (if applicable)</p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449</p> <p>11. <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Amendment</p> <p>12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)</p> <p>13. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> * Small Entity Statement(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Statement filed in prior application, Status still proper and desired (PTO/SB/09-12)</p> <p>14. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)</p> <p>15. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <b>Check No. 49080 (\$395)</b> <b>Check No. 49081 (\$ 40)</b></p>
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16. If a **CONTINUING APPLICATION**, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No: \_\_\_\_\_

Prior application information: Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Group / Art Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

For **CONTINUATION** or **DIVISIONAL APPS** only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

**17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**

☐ Customer Number or Bar Code Label \_\_\_\_\_ or ☒ Correspondence address below

(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)

Name	Larry L. Saret				
	Laff, Whitesel & Saret, Ltd.				
Address	401 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1700				
City	Chicago	State	Illinois	Zip Code	60611
Country	USA	Telephone	312-661-2100	Fax	312-661-0029

Name (Print/Type)	Larry L. Saret	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	27674
Signature	<i>Larry L. Saret</i>	Date	10-25-00

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Patent fees are subject to annual revision.  
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See 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.27 and 1.28.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$ ) 435.00

## Complete if Known

Application Number  
Filing Date  
First Named Inventor ELES, James N.  
Examiner Name  
Group / Art Unit 1300-155  
Attorney Docket No.

JC926 U.S. PTO  
09/696510

10/25/00

## METHOD OF PAYMENT (check one)

1. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to:

Deposit Account Number 12-0064

Deposit Account Name Laff, Whitesel & Saret

☒ Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 and 1.17

2. ☒ Payment Enclosed:  
☒ Check ☐ Money Order ☐ Other

## FEE CALCULATION

### 1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
101 690	201 345	Utility filing fee	355
106 310	206 155	Design filing fee	--
107 480	207 240	Plant filing fee	--
108 690	208 345	Reissue filing fee	--
114 150	214 75	Provisional filing fee	--

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$ ) 355

### 2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
15	-20** = 0	0	--
4	-3** = 1	40	40
Multiple Dependent		0	--

\*\*or number previously paid, if greater, For Reissues, see below

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description
103 18	203 9	Claims in excess of 20
102 78	202 39	Independent claims in excess of 3
104 260	204 130	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
109 78	209 39	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
110 18	210 9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$ ) 40

## FEE CALCULATION (continued)

### 3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Fee Code (\$)	Small Entity Fee Code (\$)	Fee Description	Fee Paid
105 130	205 65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
127 50	227 25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
139 130	139 130	Non-English specification	
147 2,520	147 2,520	For filing a request for reexamination	
112 920*	112 920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
113 1,840*	113 1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
115 110	215 55	Extension for reply within first month	
116 380	216 190	Extension for reply within second month	
117 870	217 435	Extension for reply within third month	
118 1,360	218 680	Extension for reply within fourth month	
128 1,850	228 925	Extension for reply within fifth month	
119 300	219 150	Notice of Appeal	
120 300	220 150	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
121 260	221 130	Request for oral hearing	
138 1,510	138 1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
140 110	240 55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
141 1,210	241 605	Petition to revive - unintentional	
142 1,210	242 605	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
143 430	243 215	Design issue fee	
144 580	244 290	Plant issue fee	
122 130	122 130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
123 50	123 50	Petitions related to provisional applications	
126 240	126 240	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
581 40	581 40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	40
146 690	246 345	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
149 690	249 345	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
Other fee (specify) _____			
Other fee (specify) _____			

\* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$ ) 40

## SUBMITTED BY

Name (Print/Type)	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	Telephone
Larry L. Saret	27674	312-661-2100
Signature	Date	
<i>Larry L. Saret</i>	25 October 2000	

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Applicant or Patentee: James N. Elesh and Alan Sax Attorney's  
Serial or Patent No: \_\_\_\_\_ Docket No: 1300-155  
Filed or Issued: Herewith  
For: Inventory Control Carton With Two Compartments and Method For Using Same

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL  
ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27)**

I. I hereby declare that I am making this verified statement to support a claim by Flexi-Mat Corporation  
\_\_\_\_\_ for small entity status for purposes of paying reduced fees under section 41(a) and (b)  
of Title 35, United States Code, with regard to the invention entitled  
Inventory Control Carton With Two Compartments and Method For Using Same  
by inventor(s) James N. Elesh and Alan Sax  
described in  
☒ (x) the specification filed herewith  
☐ ( ) application serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ ( ) patent no. \_\_\_\_\_, issued \_\_\_\_\_

II. I hereby declare that I am:

☐ ( ) A. The above-named inventor and qualify as an independent inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c).

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under law to assign, grant, convey or license, any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

☐ ( ) B. A non-inventor making this verified statement to support a claim by \_\_\_\_\_. I hereby declare that I would qualify as an independent inventor as defined in Section II.A., above.

☐ ( ) C. An official empowered to act on behalf of a nonprofit organization as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(e) and identified below:

NAME OF ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS OF ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF ORGANIZATION:

- ☐ ( ) UNIVERSITY OR OTHER INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION  
☐ ( ) TAX EXEMPT UNDER INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CODE (26 USC 501(a) and 501(c) (3))  
☐ ( ) NONPROFIT SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL UNDER STATUTE OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
(NAME OF STATE \_\_\_\_\_)  
☐ ( ) (CITATION OF STATUTE \_\_\_\_\_)  
☐ ( ) WOULD QUALIFY AS TAX EXEMPT UNDER INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE CODE (26 USC 501(a) and 501(c) (3) IF LOCATED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
☐ ( ) WOULD QUALIFY AS NONPROFIT SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL UNDER STATUTE OF STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IF LOCATED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
(NAME OF STATE \_\_\_\_\_)  
(CITATION OF STATUTE \_\_\_\_\_)

LAFF, WHITESEL, CONTE & SARET, LTD.  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
401 N. MICHIGAN AVENUE  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60611

- (x) D. An owner or official of a small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN Flexi-Mat Corporation  
ADDRESS OF CONCERN 2244 South Western Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60608

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

- III. I hereby declare that rights in the above-identified invention under contract or law exist in or have been conveyed to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention.

If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights in the invention is listed below\* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

\*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27).

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) INDIVIDUAL ( ) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ( ) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
( ) INDIVIDUAL ( ) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN ( ) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

- IV. I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING James N. Elesh  
TITLE IN ORGANIZATION President  
ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 2244 South Western Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60608

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 10/25/00

## **INVENTORY CONTROL CARTON WITH TWO COMPARTMENTS AND METHOD FOR USING SAME**

This invention relates to inventory control cartons and to means for and  
5 methods of supplying a customer's customized request from an inventory. In  
particular, the invention relates -- but not exclusively -- to cartons for pet beds with an  
associated cover.

The invention may find use in many different industries and under many  
different situations where sales include mix and match products -- especially where it  
10 is most convenient for manufacturers to package a first product and a merchant to  
package a second product with the first to provide a combination of the first and  
second products in response to a customer's selection. For convenience of  
explanation, the following description is given in terms of pet beds for dogs and cats.  
However, the selection of pet beds is not to be taken as limiting the invention and its  
15 uses. Quite the contrary, there are many other examples that could have been  
selected.

A dog's bed is often a large pillow with an attractive cover on it. A cat's bed  
would be a smaller pillow, also with a cover on it. Depending upon the animal's weight  
and size, the pillows may have a variety of sizes and shapes. Likewise, the covers are  
20 variegated and may have any number of colors, fabric designs and a variety of sizes  
and shapes to match the corresponding pillow. In fact, many people will select a pet  
bed to coordinate with colors in a room.

In the past, a distributor would specify to a manufacturer a particular size or  
shape of pillow with a particular cover on it. The covered pillow would be boxed as a  
25 complete unit by the manufacturer and shipped to the distributor to be maintained in

inventory until that combination of pillow and cover was ordered by the distributor's customer. This required the distributor to maintain a relatively large inventory of pet beds, due to the variety of covers and pillows. Thus, the cost of storing the various matched sets of covers and pillows in inventory is high.

5 It is preferable to inventory a relatively small number of pillows (which occupy a relatively large volume of space) and a great variety of covers (which occupy a relatively small volume of space) which may be mixed and matched responsive to a customer's request. This raises issues of who (as between the manufacturer and distributor) is to maintain inventories of pillows and covers, how the pillow and cover  
10 may be packaged, how the size of the resulting carton may be minimized, and how the carton filled with products may pass from the manufacturer to the final customer with a minimum amount of handling.

Accordingly, an object of the invention is to reduce the size of the pillow to a minimum and to put it in the reasonably smallest box possible. Here, an object is to  
15 facilitate such packaging while maintaining the mix and match possibility.

A further object is to enable the manufacturer to make, package, and ship the pillows, while enabling the distributor to add a cover selected by a customer with minimal handling of the manufacturer's original packaging.

In keeping with an aspect of the invention, these and other objects are  
20 accomplished by a two-compartment box having a relatively large compartment which may receive a pillow and then be sealed at the factory. To reduce the size of the pillow before insertion into the box, it is placed in a plastic bag. Then, a vacuum pump draws the air out of the plastic bag, thereby squeezing the pillow to a much smaller

size. While so squeezed into this small size, it is placed in the large compartment of the box which is then sealed. The second compartment of the box may be very small to ultimately receive a folded cover which is selected from the distributor's inventory of covers. The small compartment is temporarily closed by the manufacturer, and later  
5 the distributor may insert a cover therein and then seal it after the customer makes his selection.

A preferred embodiment will be understood best from the following specification taken with the attached drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of the inventive box or carton;

10 Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a pillow for a pet;

Fig. 3 is a plan view of a plastic bag for receiving the pillow of Fig. 2 and of a vacuum pump for evacuating the bag;

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a folded cover for the pillow of Fig. 2;

Fig. 5 is a drawing of a blank for making the carton of Fig. 1; and

15 Fig. 6 is a top plan view of the blank of Fig. 5, folded to form a tube having a rectangular cross section which becomes the box or carton of Fig. 1.

In greater detail, a box or carton 20 (Fig. 1) has two compartments 22 and 24. At the time when the manufacturer ships the carton, flaps 26, 28 are sealed to close the larger compartment 24. The flap 30 is tucked into the box so that the smaller  
20 compartment 22 is temporarily closed, but not sealed.

Large compartment 24 is dimensioned to hold a pillow or stuffing for the pet's bed. The small compartment 22 is designed to hold the cover for the pillow. According to the invention herein, the manufacturer ships carton 20 with the pillow in

place and compartment 24 sealed. The small compartment 22 is normally empty when carton 20 is shipped. The distributor inserts a cover of the customer's choice into small compartment 22 and, optionally, seals flap 30. Then, the carton is delivered to the customer.

5            Fig. 2 shows a pillow 32 which may be used as a dog's bed, for example. The pillow 32 is initially larger than and cannot easily fit within the large compartment 24 in carton 20. The inventive method involves shrinking the pillow volume so that the pillow fits into large compartment 24 quickly and easily.

10           Fig. 3 shows a plastic bag 34 which is large enough to easily receive the pillow 32, even when fluffed. After the pillow 32 is positioned inside the bag 34, a vacuum pump 36 is connected to the bag in order to suck air from the bag, thereby compressing the pillow 32. After the pillow is sufficiently compressed, the bagged pillow snugly fits into the large compartment 24. The manufacturer now seals the flaps 26, 28 and ships the box to a distributor, with the pillow in the large  
15           compartment. The distributor typically maintains a small inventory of boxed pillows of various shapes and sizes and a large inventory of folded covers of corresponding shapes and sizes and various colors and fabric patterns.

20           When a customer orders a pet bed, he selects a particular pillow and cover 38 (Fig. 4). The distributor opens the small top flap 30 and inserts the selected cover 38 into the small compartment and under flap 30 which is then closed and preferably sealed. The compartment containing the pillow is not disturbed. The carton is then delivered to the customer.



The carton is made from the corrugated cardboard blank 40 shown in Fig. 5. Solid lines show where the blank is cut and dashed lines show where the blank is folded. As can be seen from an inspection of Fig. 5, the blank has a series of five panels with a glue flap on each end.

5 To form the blank into a box, an inside glue flap 46 is folded upwardly along line 48 to approximately 90°, with respect to a divider panel 50. Then, panel 50 is folded along line 52 to about 90° with respect to front panel 54. The folding continues along line 56 as side panel 58 is folded along line 60, again to about 90° with respect to back panel 62. Thus, a first series of three panels in the blank have been folded at right angles with respect to each other in order to form three sides of a first and large  
10 compartment 24 of box 20.

At this point, the blank has been folded into a tube having a rectangular cross-section (Fig. 6). While the dimensions will change with various types of boxes, typical dimensions for a pet bed box are described herein in order to better explain the next  
15 step in the box assembly operation. The divider panel 50 and the two side panels 58 and 64 are nearly the same width, approximately 1/8" for each fold. In this example, the panel widths 50, 58, 64 are 12, 12 1/2, and 12 1/4 inches wide, respectively. However, the fourth panel in the series, back panel 62, is 17 1/2 inches wide; or, stated otherwise, it is as wide as the sum of the sides of both compartments 22 and  
20 24. This extra width of approximately 5 inches over the panel widths of the first three panels provides enough cardboard for one part 70 of the panel 62 to form one side wall of the small compartment 22.

In order to secure the rectangular tube in its folded condition, the inside glue flap 46 is glued to the inside surface of the back panel 62 along line 66 which separates the widths of the two compartments 22 and 24, thereby completing the large compartment 24. The remaining width 67 of back panel 62 extending from location 66  
5 where inside glue flap 46 is glued to the edge 60 of panel 58, is approximately equal to the width of front panel 54 with a little relief to facilitate the folding of the cardboard.

The left side panel 64 provides an outside wall for the carton, including both of the two compartments, and also is the wide wall of small compartment 22. Panel 64 is folded along line 68 which leaves the space 70 between the glue line 66 and fold line  
10 68 in order to form one side of the small compartment 22. Next, the outside glue flap 72 is folded along line 74. A margin 79, which has a length of about half the length of the flap 72, is then glued to the edge of front panel 54 (see Fig. 6). The remainder 80 of glue flap 72 forms a side of the small compartment opposite the panel part 70.

To complete the box, the bottom forming flaps 81 are folded in a conventional  
15 manner toward the center of the box and glued in place. A tab 82 on the bottom of glue flap 72 is glued to bottom flap 73. The bag containing the pillow is placed in the large compartment 24 and flaps 84, 86 are folded over the pillow and toward the center of the box. Then, the flaps 26, 28 are folded over flaps 84, 86 and glued in place.

20 Two side flaps 88, 90 are folded over small compartment 22. The top flap 30 is folded along lines 92, 94 and tucked over side flaps 88, 90 and into the empty small compartment. The box is now ready to be shipped to the distributor.

When the time comes to place a cover in the box, the top flap 30 is pulled out, the selected cover is placed in the small compartment and the flap is again tucked into the small container.

The carton is now ready to be shipped to the retailer or consumer.

5 By using a box of this construction, distributors of products having two components can substantially reduce their inventory space requirements, and manufacturers can ship a first component in a sealed first compartment of the box, and the distributor can select a corresponding second component from its own inventory and insert that second component into a second compartment of the same  
10 box upon a customer's order. The distributor need not inventory, for example, three units of five different size pillows in each of four different color covers, i.e. 60 complete pet beds. Instead, the distributor may be comfortable maintaining an inventory of only 15 pillows and 60 folded covers, because the five different size pillows can be matched with the selected size and color cover on site at the distributor's warehouse.

15 Those who are skilled in the art will readily perceive various modifications that fall within the scope and spirit of the invention. Therefore, the appended claims are to be construed to cover all equivalent structures.

The claimed invention is:

1. A carton having two compartments made from a single corrugated cardboard blank having a series of five panels separated by fold lines, a glue flap on each end of said blank, a first three panels in said series of panels having widths equal to panel widths of corresponding sides of a first of said compartments, a next and fourth in said series of panels having a width equal to a sum of side widths of said two compartments, a fifth and last in said series of panels having a width equal to the width of an opposite side of said carton, and a first of said glue flaps next to said fifth panel having a width exceeding a side width of a second of said compartments by a margin, a second of the glue flaps being adjacent the first three panels in the series of panels, said second glue flap being glued to an inside surface of said fourth panel at a location separating the widths of said two compartments, and the margin of the first of the glue flaps being glued to an outside surface of a second in said series of three panels.

2. The carton of claim 1 and flaps on the bottoms of said panels for folding inwardly to close and seal the bottom of said carton, and a tab on the bottom of said first of said glue flaps, said tab being glued over a bottom flap on a second of the series of three panels.

3. The carton of claim 2 and a flap on the top edge of each panel in said series of five panels, the flaps on top of the first four of said panels forming a top for said first compartment, whereby said top flaps may be closed and sealed over the first compartment while said second compartment remains open.

4. The carton of claim 3 and a flap on a top edge of said fifth panel forming a top which tucks into and temporarily closes said second compartment.

5. A two compartment inventory control carton comprising a unitary blank having a first plurality of panels which fold to become a first of said two compartments, at least one of said panels and a flap forming two opposite walls of a second of said two compartments, one of said plurality of panels being common to both of said two compartments and forming a third wall of said second compartment, a first means for closing one of said compartments and a second means for temporarily closing the other of said compartments.

6. The carton of claim 5 and flaps common to the panels forming said first compartment for folding over to close said first compartment whereby a first person may fill and close said first compartment while leaving said second of said compartments empty, said second means being at least one panel having a flap for tucking into said second compartment, whereby a person may load said second compartment after said first compartment is closed.

7. The carton of claim 6 wherein said first compartment is filled with a first product and said second compartment is filled with a second product for ultimately combining with said first product.

8. The carton of claim 7 wherein said first product in said first compartment is a pillow for forming a pet bed and said second product in said second compartment is a cover for said pillow.

9. A method of inventory control where a first product is to be packaged with a second product, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a carton having two compartments, a first of said compartments including means for separately closing and sealing said first compartment, a second of said compartments including means for temporarily closing and opening said second compartment;

5 (b) inserting said first product into said first compartment;

(c) keeping an inventory comprising a plurality of said second products;

(d) selecting one of said second products from said inventory of step (c);

(e) opening said second compartment and placing said selected second product therein; and

10 (f) closing said second compartment.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said first product is a pillow, and step (b) comprises the further steps of placing said pillow in a plastic bag; drawing a vacuum in said plastic bag thereby compacting and minimizing the dimensions of said pillow; and placing said pillow in said first compartment while in said compacted and minimized condition.

15 11. The method of claim 10 and the further step of closing and sealing said first compartment with said compacted and minimized pillow therein, and shipping said carton with said pillow sealed in the first compartment.

20 12. The method of claim 11 and the further step of inserting a selected cover for said pillow in said second compartment.

13. The method of claim 9 wherein steps (a) and (b) are performed at a first location, the carton is then shipped to a second location, and steps (c)-(f) are performed at said second location.

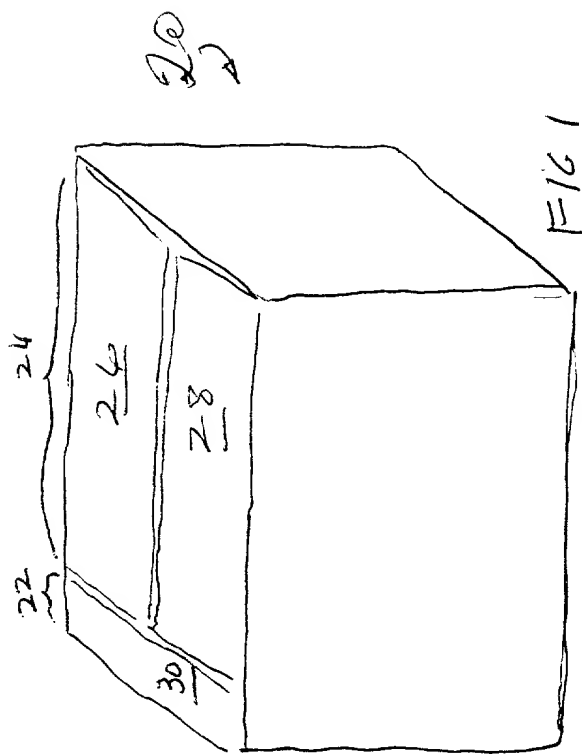
14. A system for shipping a pet bed in a delivery carton, said system comprising: a unitary carton having a large and a small compartment therein, means for compacting a portion of said pet bed to fit into said large compartment, means for sealing said large compartment with said portion of said pet bed enclosed therein, and  
5 means for temporarily closing said small compartment whereby said carton may be shipped and stored with the large compartment filled and the small compartment empty.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein said portion of said pet bed is a pillow and said means for compacting said bed comprises a bag dimensioned to receive said  
10 pillow, and a vacuum pump connected to said bag to withdraw air therefrom.

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A unitary carton has two compartments. A first of the two compartments can be closed and sealed while the other compartment can be temporarily closed. This way a manufacturer can insert a product into the first compartment, then close and seal that compartment and ship the carton to a distributor. The distributor can open the temporarily closed compartment and add a second product selected by a customer. The carton is then shipped to the retailer or consumer with the two products in it. In the described example, the first product is a pillow, and the second product is a cover which can be combined with the pillow to form a pet bed. The pillow is placed in a plastic bag and a vacuum is drawn to reduce the size of the pillow so that it fits snugly in its compartment. The pet bed packaged and assembled in this manner permits the distributor to substantially reduce its inventory space requirements.





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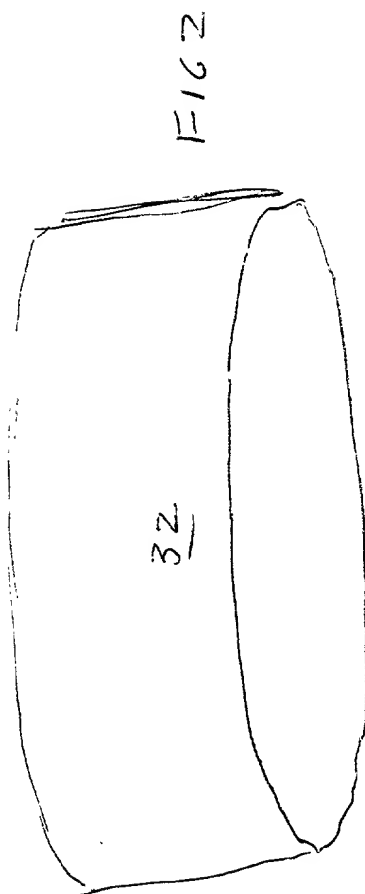


FIG. 2

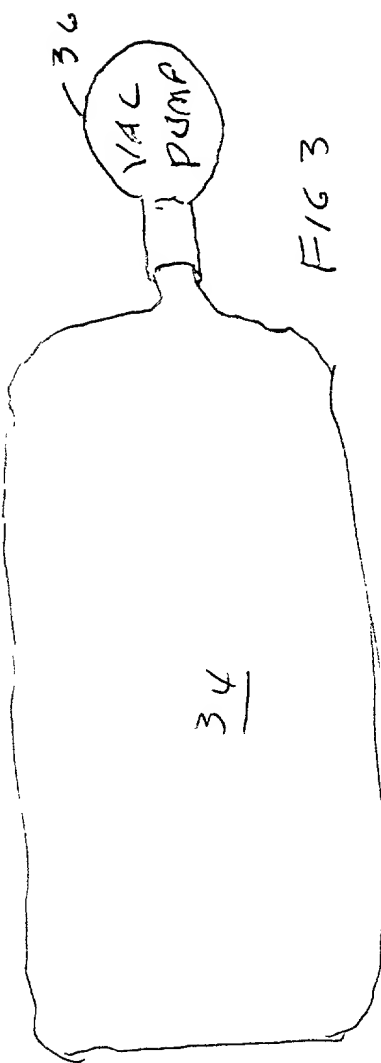


FIG. 3

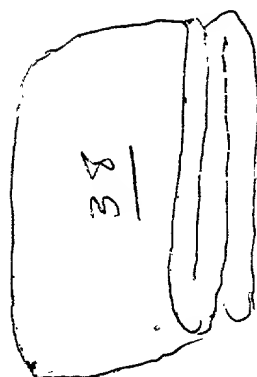


FIG. 4

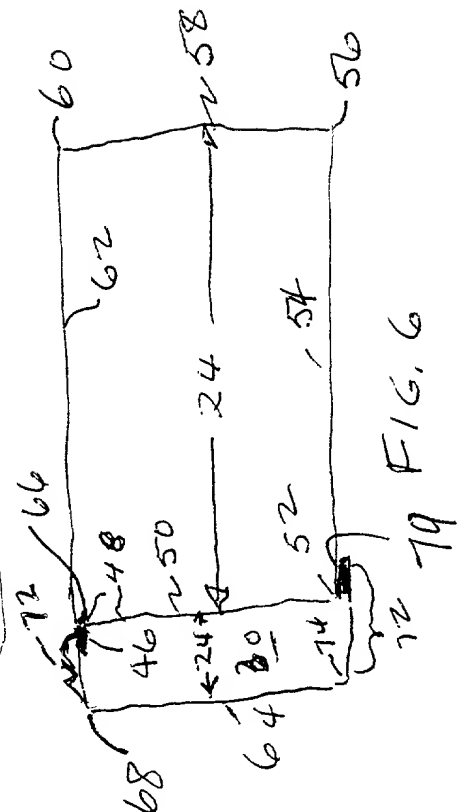


FIG. 6

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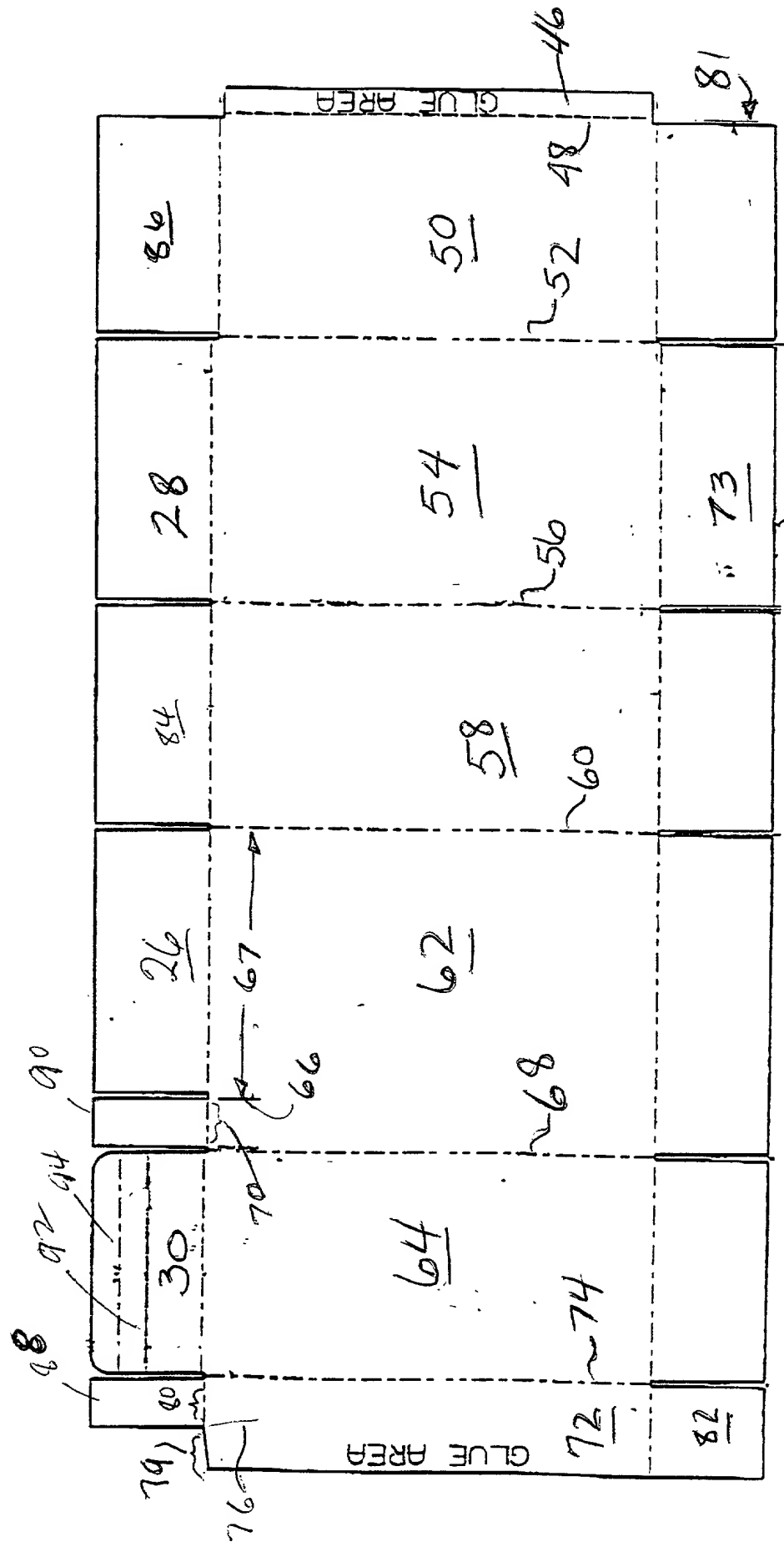


FIG 5

# Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

## English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

Inventory Control Carton With Two Compartments and Method For Using Same \_\_\_\_\_,  
the specification of which

(check one)

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as

United States Application Serial Number \_\_\_\_\_ or PCT International Application

Number \_\_\_\_\_ and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 or §365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or §365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)

Priority Claimed

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐ Yes ☐ No

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Number) (Country) (Day/Month/Year Filed)

☐ Yes ☐ No

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Application Number) (Filing Date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Application Number) (Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) or §365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)  
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

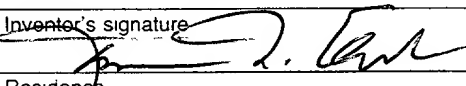
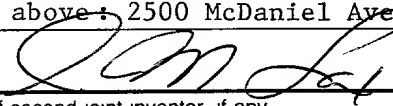

(Status)  
(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. Charles A. Laff (19787); J. Warren Whitesel (16830); Larry L. Saret (27674); Martin L. Stern (28911); Barry W. Sufrin (27398); Kevin C. Trock (37745); ~~G. Peter Albert, Jr. (37268); Michael B. Allen (37582);~~ William A. Meunier (41193); Lisa C. Childs (39937); Jeffrey H. Canfield (38404).

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☐ Additional inventors are being named on separately numbered sheets attached hereto.